

# STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No 122

20p

The illustration depicts a dramatic alien invasion scene. Two large, green-skinned, reptilian aliens with sharp teeth and orange, patterned armor are shown in mid-air, holding futuristic weapons. They are positioned against a backdrop of a city at night, with glowing lights and a bright, hazy area in the upper left where other figures are visible. The overall tone is action-packed and sci-fi.

**ALIEN  
INVASION**



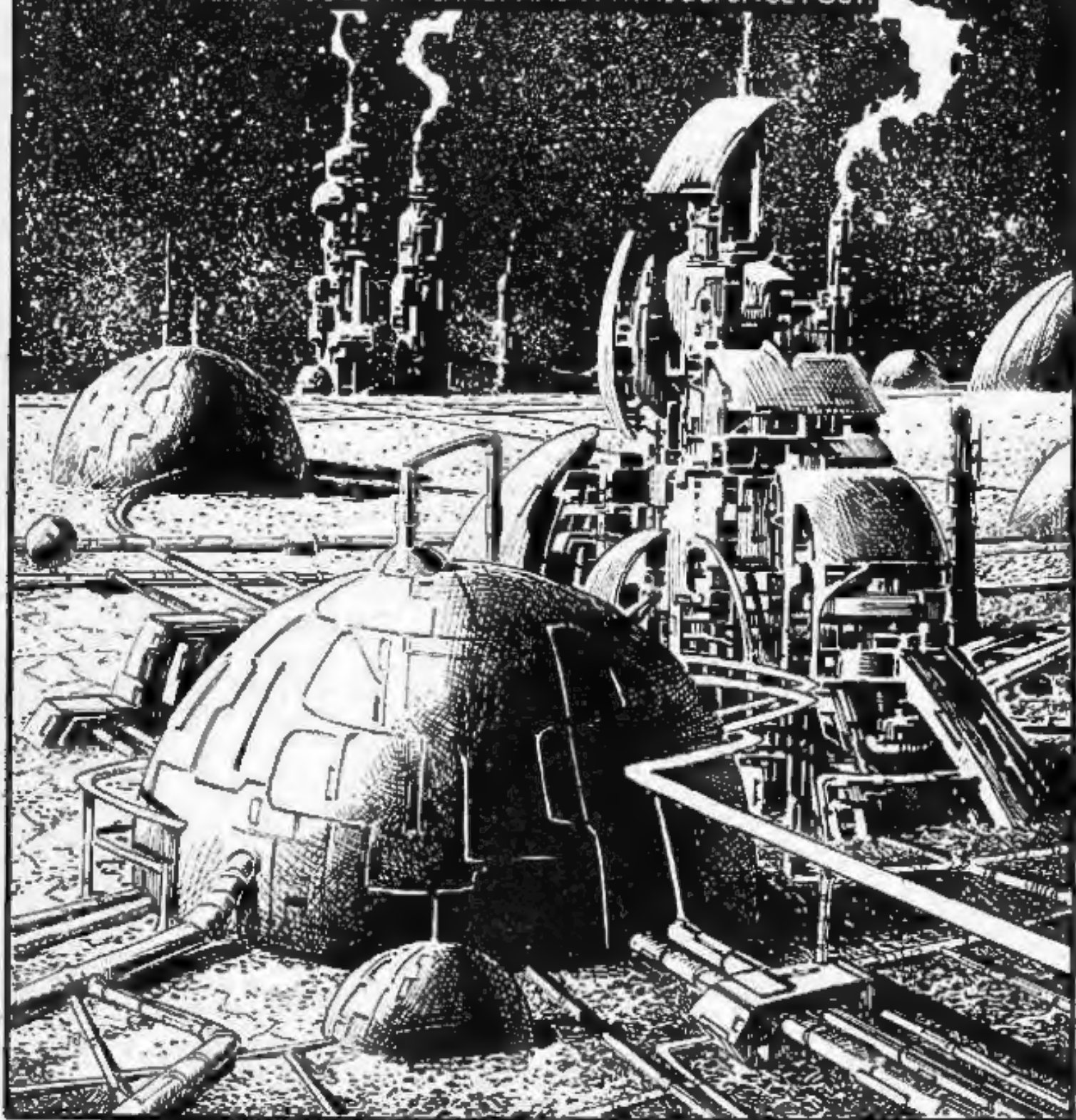
# STARBLAZER

SPORADIC WARS RAGED IN THE 23RD CENTURY AS THE CRUMBLING EARTH FEDERATION TRIED TO STAVE OFF ATTACKS FROM ALL SIDES. AN UNHOLY ALLIANCE OF THE ASUR, SHABOT AND BARGEZ WORLDS SPREAD TERROR AND DEATH THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY. EARTH'S DEFENCES WERE SPREAD THIN, SO THIN THAT EVEN SUICIDE SQUADS OF MISFITS FOUND THEMSELVES TRANSFERRED TO STRATEGIC TASKS. NAVIGATOR HENRY FOUND HIMSELF PILOTING A SPACETUG HIGH OVER THE GAS-RICH PLANET, ASGARD, IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.

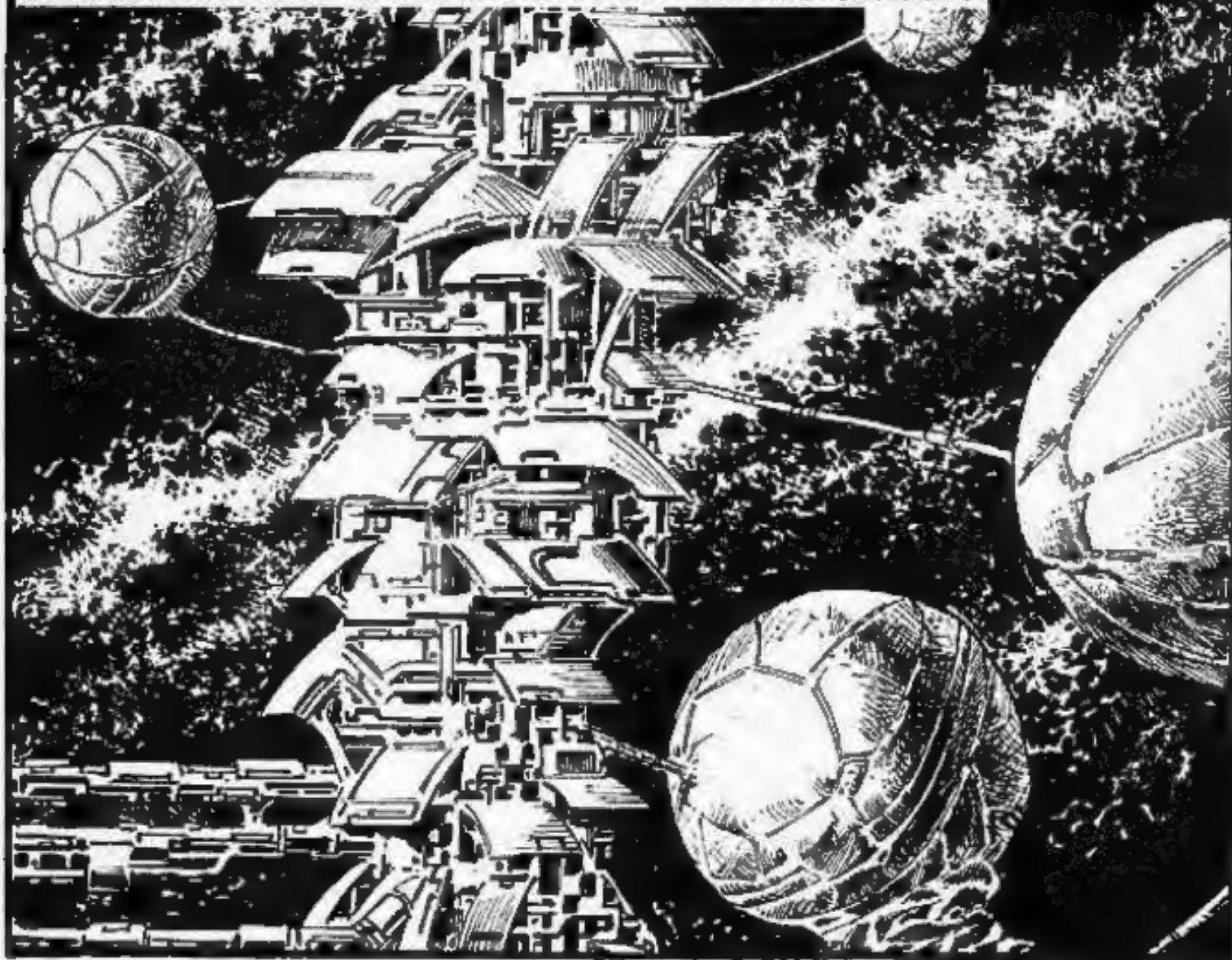


# ALIEN INVASION

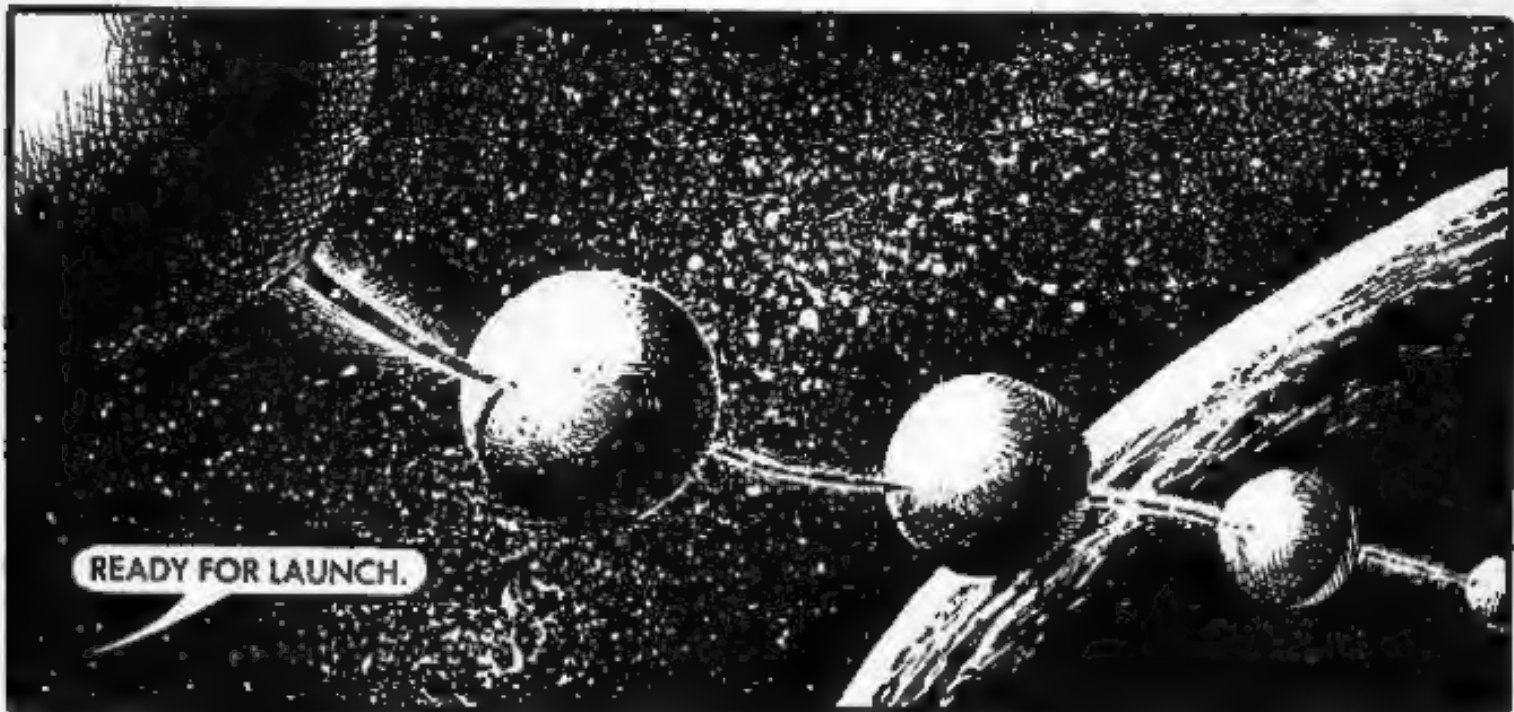
THE HUGE GAS PLANT ON UNINHABITED ASGARD SUPPLIED VELGA, A TERRAN COLONY PLANET AND A VITAL DEFENCE POST.



4  
GAS WAS TRANSPORTED THROUGH SPACE IN ENORMOUS ALLOY BALLOONS.



READY FOR LAUNCH.

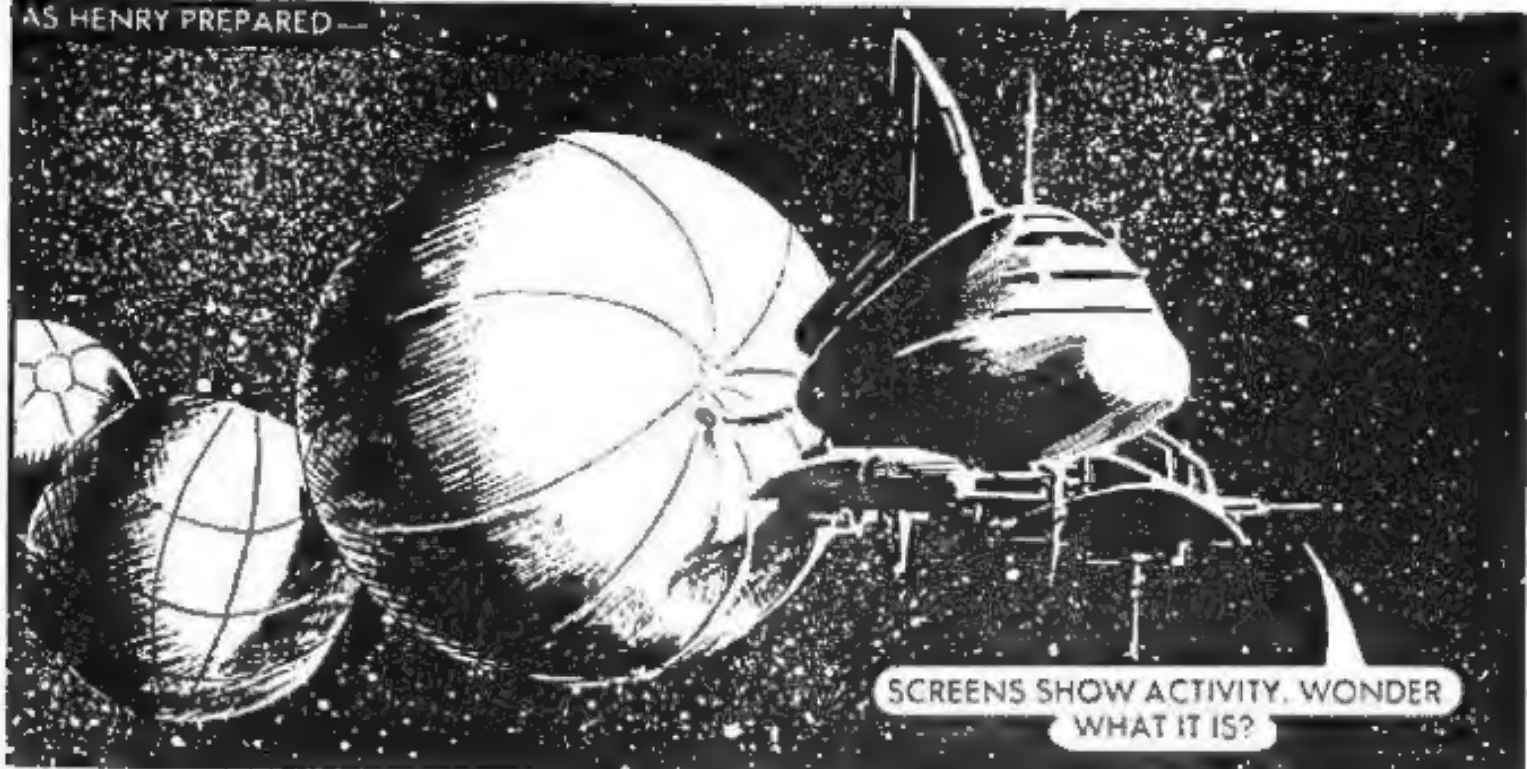




NAVIGATOR HENRY, IN THE UNACCUSTOMED JOB AS SPACETUG PILOT, AWAITED THE MOMENT FOR THE TRICKY COUPLING JOB.



AS HENRY PREPARED —



SCREENS SHOW ACTIVITY. WONDER WHAT IT IS?

FROM OUT OF THE VACUUM OF SPACE  
A HUGE, ALIEN VESSEL MATERIALISED—



WHAT THE...? BARGEZ  
DEATHROOPS.



THE SMALL MARINE FORCE ON ASGARD WAS CALLED TO ACTION—

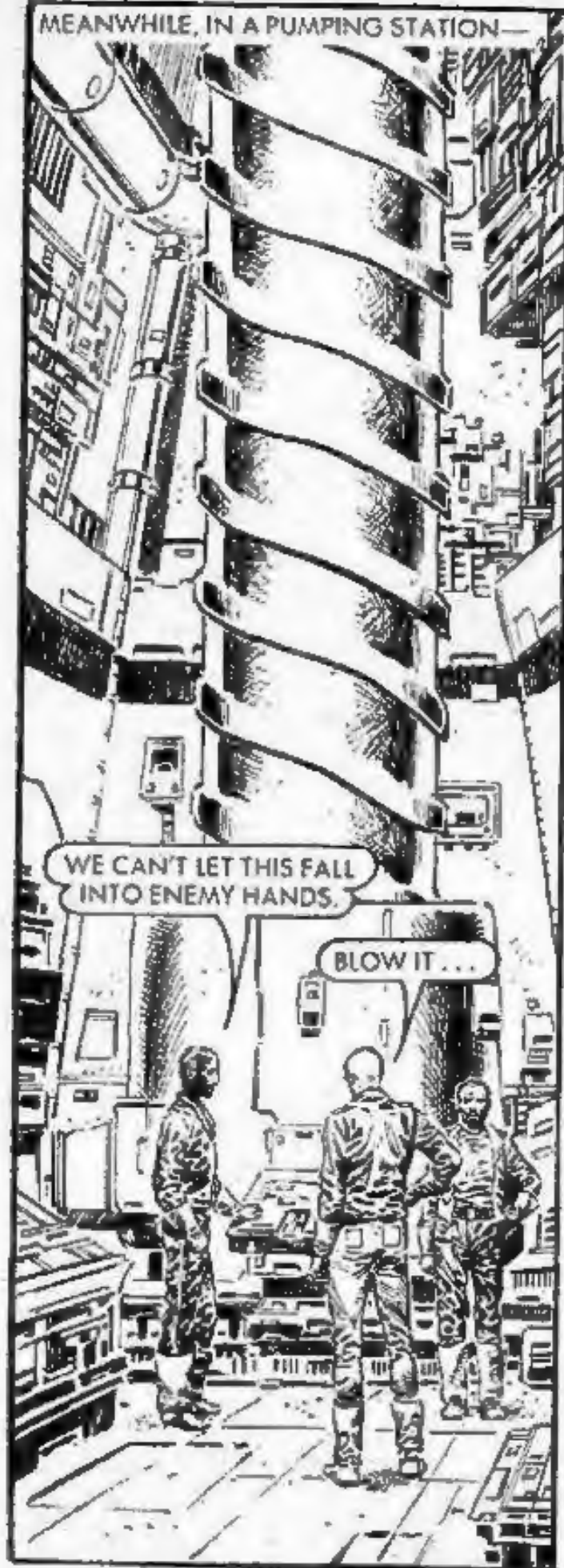
WAIT TILL THEY ARE CONCENTRATED  
AROUND DOME TWO AND THEN USE THE  
REMOTE CONTROL TO BLOW IT.



THE DESTRUCTION OF DOME 2 WAS ONLY A TEMPORARY SETBACK—



MEANWHILE, IN A PUMPING STATION—



THE THREE MARINES SET THE CHARGES AND SACRIFICED THEMSELVES TO PREVENT THE ENEMY GAINING AN ADVANTAGE.





HIGH ABOVE ASGARD --

BARGEZ FORCES HAVE LAUNCHED AN ASSAULT ON ASGARD. THE SMALL HUMAN FORCE IS PUTTING UP A FIERCE STRUGGLE, BUT THEY HAVE SUFFERED HEAVY CASUALTIES.

NOW WHAT ARE MY CHANCES OF REACHING VELGA IN THIS UNARMED CRATE? A FRIENDLY PATROL SHIP WOULD BE WELCOME RIGHT NOW

HENRY SUITED UP FOR A DEEPSPACE RUN --

PHOBOS AND DEIMOS -- A BARGEZ SCOUT, UNCOUPLE -- I DON'T WANT TO BE NEAR THESE BALLOONS.

THE BARGEZ PILOT FIRED—

THAT'S ONE LOAD OF GAS THAT  
WON'T REACH ITS DESTINATION.

HENRY JUST FAILED TO MAKE IT—THE AREA OF EXPANDING, FLAMING GAS CAUGHT HIS CRAFT.

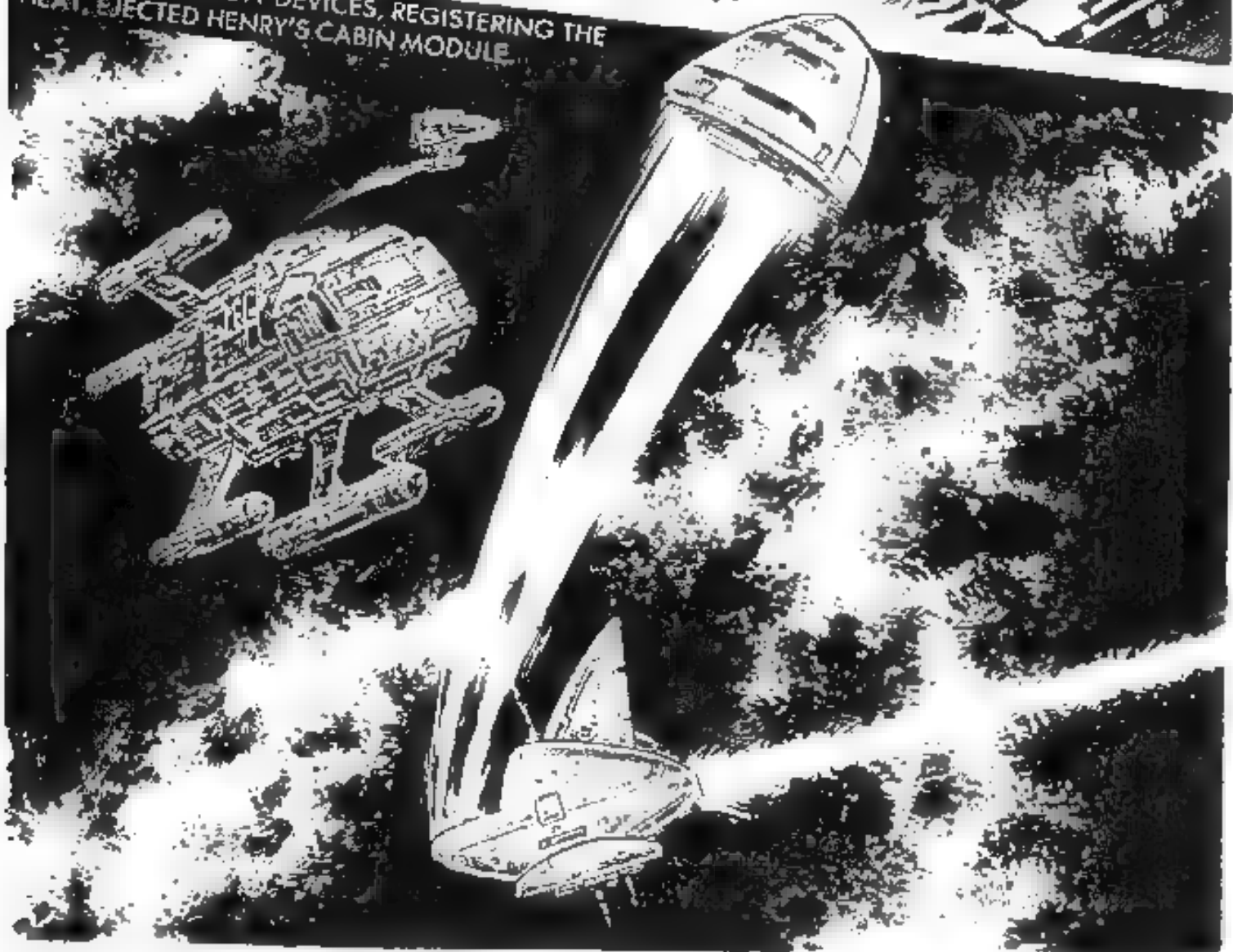




HE BLACKED OUT AS HIS SHIP WAS HURLED AWAY, AND THE SURFACE TEMPERATURE OF THE SHIP BECAME UNACCEPTABLE.



AUTOMATIC SAFETY DEVICES, REGISTERING THE HEAT, EJECTED HENRY'S CABIN MODULE.



THE MODULE WAS PICKED UP  
AND TAKEN TO ASGARD

YOUR WAR IS  
OVER, EARTHS LUG!

HENRY WAS TAKEN TO A PRISON CAMP—

FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE PLANET OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS SQUAD HAD BEEN CAPTURED. HENRY WAS REUNITED WITH LIEUTENANT STEVE MARTIN, AND GUNNER GEE. A FOURTH MEMBER, VIDOP BELLO, HAD BEEN KILLED IN THE PREVIOUS MISSION.

I SEE THEY GOT YOU  
TOO, HENRY.

NOT THE HAPPIEST WAY  
TO MEET AGAIN.





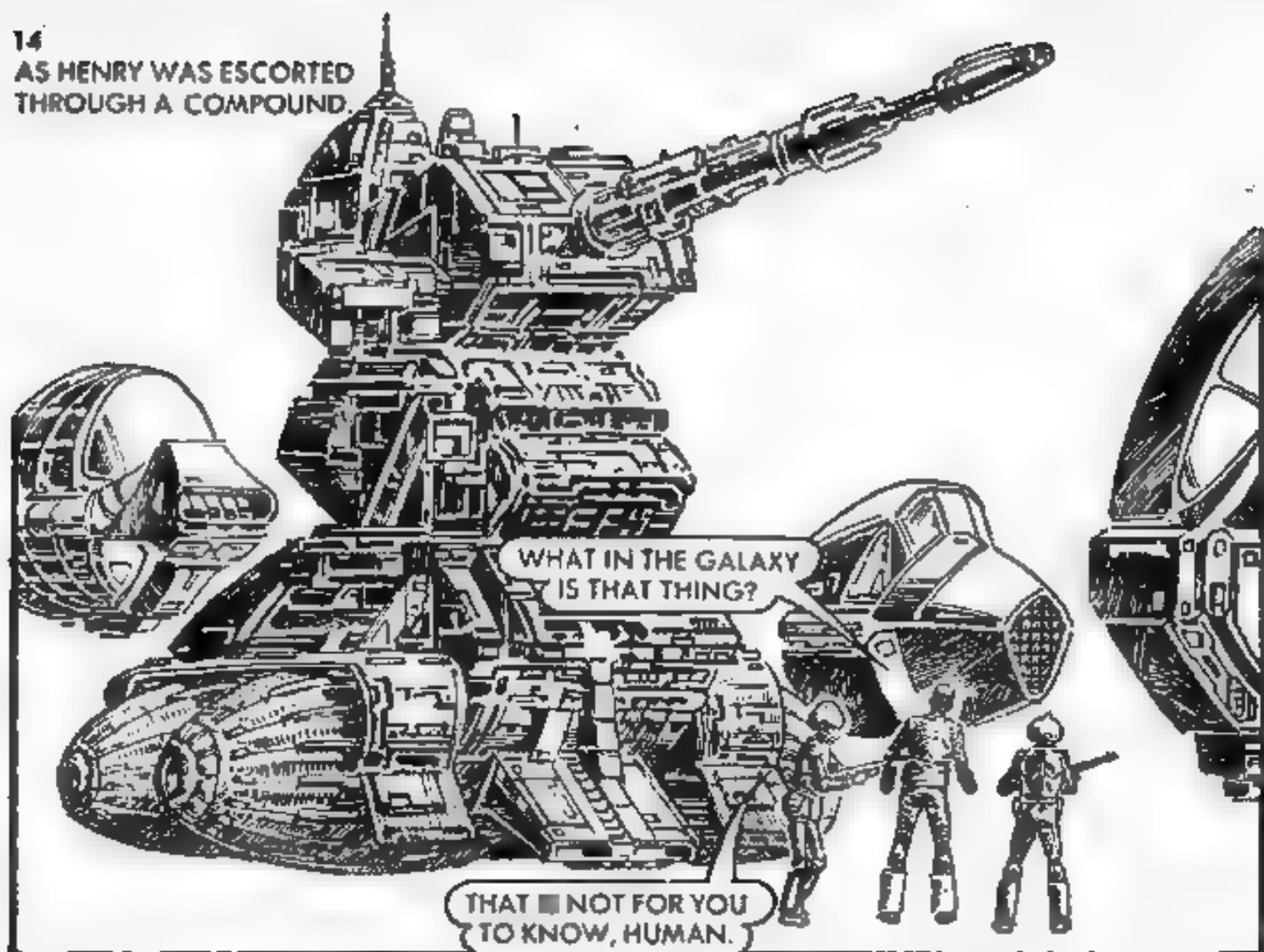
I WANT A VOLUNTEER TO SHOW US  
HOW TO SHUT DOWN DRILL 2.

I'LL GO! IT'S A CHANCE TO LEARN  
WHAT'S HAPPENING. PERHAPS EVEN A  
CHANCE OF ESCAPE OR SABOTAGE

TRAITOR!

WHAT REWARD DO YOU EXPECT  
FROM THESE CREEPS?

AS HENRY WAS ESCORTED  
THROUGH A COMPOUND.







THAT CABLE ■ SHORT-CIRCUITING  
THE CLOSURE GEAR.

WHICH IT ISN'T, BUT ONCE THEY CUT  
THE POWER THE SAFETY VALVE WILL  
STAY OPEN AND GAS WILL PUMP  
OUT. EVENTUALLY IT WILL IGNITE!

SO WE JUST HAVE  
TO CUT IT?

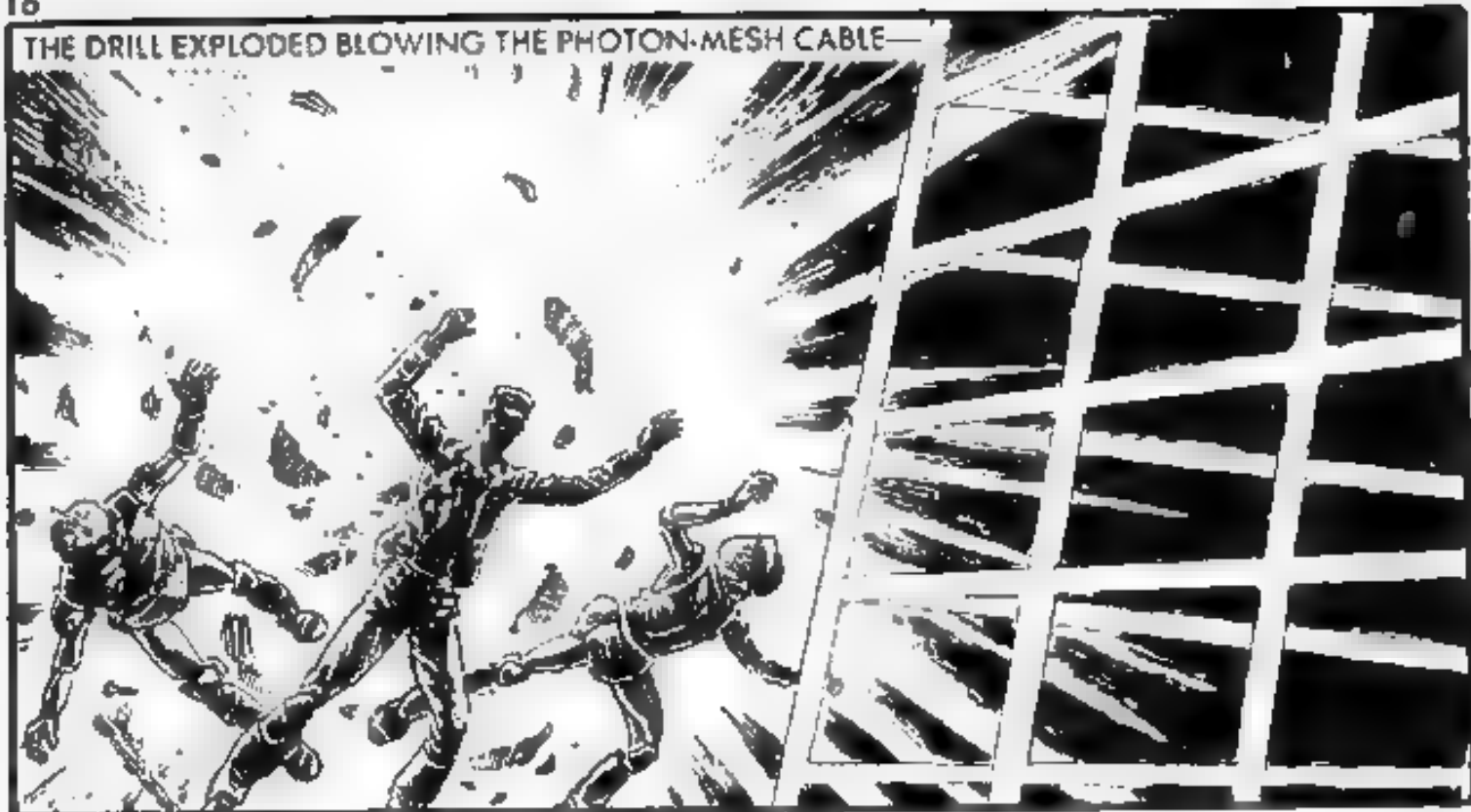
THAT'S FIXED THE DANGER,  
AND THE LOSS OF GAS.

THEY'VE SHUT DOWN THE DRILL ALL  
RIGHT—BUT WITHOUT THE SAFETY VALVE.

NO SOLDIER LIKES TRAITORS.  
THEY'LL KILL YOU IN THERE

IT WILL BE EASIER IF THE DRILL BLOWS  
BEFORE I'M BACK INSIDE THE CAGE.  
I'LL HAVE TO MOVE FAST!

THE DRILL EXPLODED BLOWING THE PHOTON-MESH CABLE



HENRY LEAPED ON THE STUNNED SOLDIER--



FOR YOU THE  
WAR IS OVER!



USING THE GUARD'S BLASTER, HENRY FOUGHT HIS WAY PAST THE OTHER GUARDS.



HENRY COULDN'T GUARANTEE HITTING THE GUARDS IN THE TOWER, SO HE DEMOLISHED IT—





HENRY SET ABOUT RELEASING THE PRISONERS--

YOU'RE DOING  
FINE, PILOT!

WE NEED WEAPONS







STEVE AND HENRY COMMANDEERED THE HUGE  
ARMOURED VEHICLE—

KEEP IN TOUCH ON  
THE RADIOVID.

GEE BOARDED A HOVSPOTTER  
TO RECONNOITRE THE LAND—



THE CURIOUS CONVOY LUMBERED AWAY FROM THE FRISON CAMP.







WHERE ARE WE GOING?

JUST A SECOND. I'VE SIGHTED SOMETHING!

SIX PODS, HENRY. FIVE MILES,  
TEN O'CLOCK, 50,000 FEET.


GET CLEAR, GEE. THEY CAN  
SNUFF YOU OUT IN A SECOND.

STEVE AND HENRY LOOKED FOR WAYS  
TO DEFEND THEMSELVES...

STOP THIS THING . . . MAN THE  
CANNON.

I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND  
THE CONTROLS! BUT HERE GOES!





FIRES OF HADES! A FLAMETHROWER,  
WITH A MILE-LONG RANGE, NO LESS!

THE OTHER CRAFT BANKED AWAY, AFRAID OF THE DEVASTATING THERMAL RAY.



GEE WAS SOON ON THE MOVE AGAIN—

TANKS INTERCEPTING YOU!  
ABOUT A MILE AHEAD.





CEASE FIRE!  
DON'T GO MAD!

THEY SALVAGED AN ABANDONED TANK—

GET THAT OUT... WE CAN'T AFFORD  
TO LOSE ANY MORE TIME.







GET AWAY FROM THE CONVOY  
— INTO THE DITCH.

UNERRINGLY THE OBJECT HOMED IN ON THE TANK AND ERUPTED IN A FIRESTORM OF  
WHITE HOT DEATH.

THERMO-INCENDIARIES! NO TANKS,  
AND NO TRANSPORT LEFT. JUST US  
AND A FEW HAND WEAPONS.

THIS IS THE POSITION! WE ARE IN NO SHAPE FOR OFFENSIVE ACTION. WE MUST HIDE—THAT MEANS GOING IN THE DIRECTION THEY LEAST EXPECT. CROSS-COUNTRY—TOWARDS THE SOURCE OF THE MISSILES.



RETALIATION WAS BEING PLANNED—

RECONNAISSANCE PODS SHOW THE  
ANTI-TANK MISSILES DESTROYED  
EVERYTHING. SEND TROOP-CARRIERS  
TO FINISH OFF ANY SURVIVORS.

STEVE! 3 MILES NORTH-EAST OF  
YOU, ALL SORTS OF WEAPONS  
ARE ASSEMBLED AT A  
TEMPORARY CAMP!

WE'LL HAVE TO CREATE A DIVERSION  
AT THE OTHER END—WE'LL ONLY  
HAVE ONE CHANCE TO GET IN  
THERE.



GEE HARRASSED THE BARGEZ, WHILE . . .

STEVE AND HIS MEN CREPT CLOSE TO THE SECURITY NET AROUND THE CAMP.

ONCE INSIDE—

WHAT DOES  
THAT MEAN?

SONIC GRENADES! JUST  
WHAT WE NEED RIGHT NOW!

THE SONICS SOON DISPOSED OF THE  
REMAINING DEPOT GUARDS.



THE UNEXPECTED ATTACK YIELDED ARMoured VEHICLES  
AND ARMS.



WHERE DO WE GO? NO USE  
HANGING ABOUT HERE TO  
BLOTTED OUT BY SPACE PODS.

THE SPACEPORT. IT'S  
THE BIGGEST TARGET.

THE SMALL FORCE SET OFF ACROSS COUNTRY.

STEVE, YOU ARE RUNNING STRAIGHT INTO  
A COLUMN OF SOME SORT OF VEHICLES

HELP! WE'RE IN SOME  
SORT OF QUICKSAND.

GET THEM OUT!



A HUMAN CHAIN RESCUED THE CREW OF THE DOOMED TANK



OIL'S AN OLD  
FOSSIL FUEL





OF COURSE! ON MANY PLANETS, OIL  
WAS FOUND NEAR NATURAL GAS. IF  
WE COME THROUGH, WE COULD BUY  
THIS LAND AFTER THE WAR AND GET  
RICH

COME OFF ■, HENRY! YOU'D NEVER  
STICK A JOB EVEN IF IT DID MAKE  
YOU RICH

HADES! IT'S A COLUMN  
OF MOTORISED INFANTRY!



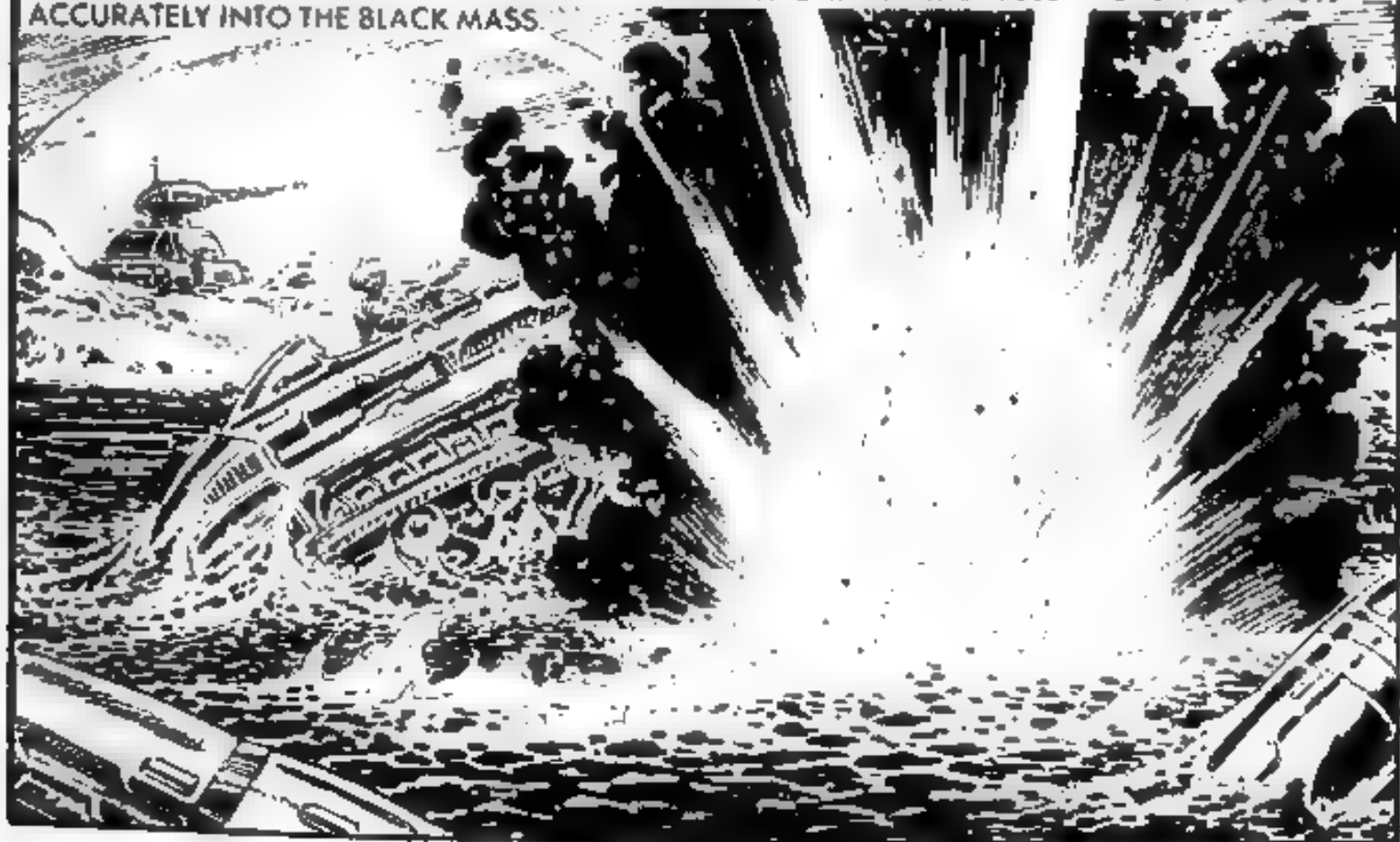
THE MOTLEY COLLECTION PREPARED TO FACE THE WRATH OF THE BARGEZ



WAIT TILL THEY REACH THE OIL — A  
TERMITE SHELL SHOULD PROVIDE  
ENOUGH HEAT TO IGNITE THE OIL.



AS THE BARGEZ COLUMN APPROACHED THE SURFACE OIL, HENRY LOBBED THE TERMITE SHELL  
ACCURATELY INTO THE BLACK MASS.





WITH A FIRE RAGING, THE TANKS  
CLOSED IN TO FINISH OFF THE  
BARGEZ —

THE SPACEPORT'S OVER A MILE AWAY,  
BUT THE SOUND OF TANKS WILL CARRY  
THAT FAR. SO NOW WE WALK.

SILENTLY THEY CREPT PAST THE AUTOMATIC PUMPING STATIONS SURROUNDING THE SPACEPORT.

THAT'S A NEW PUMPING STATION —  
GET INSIDE!

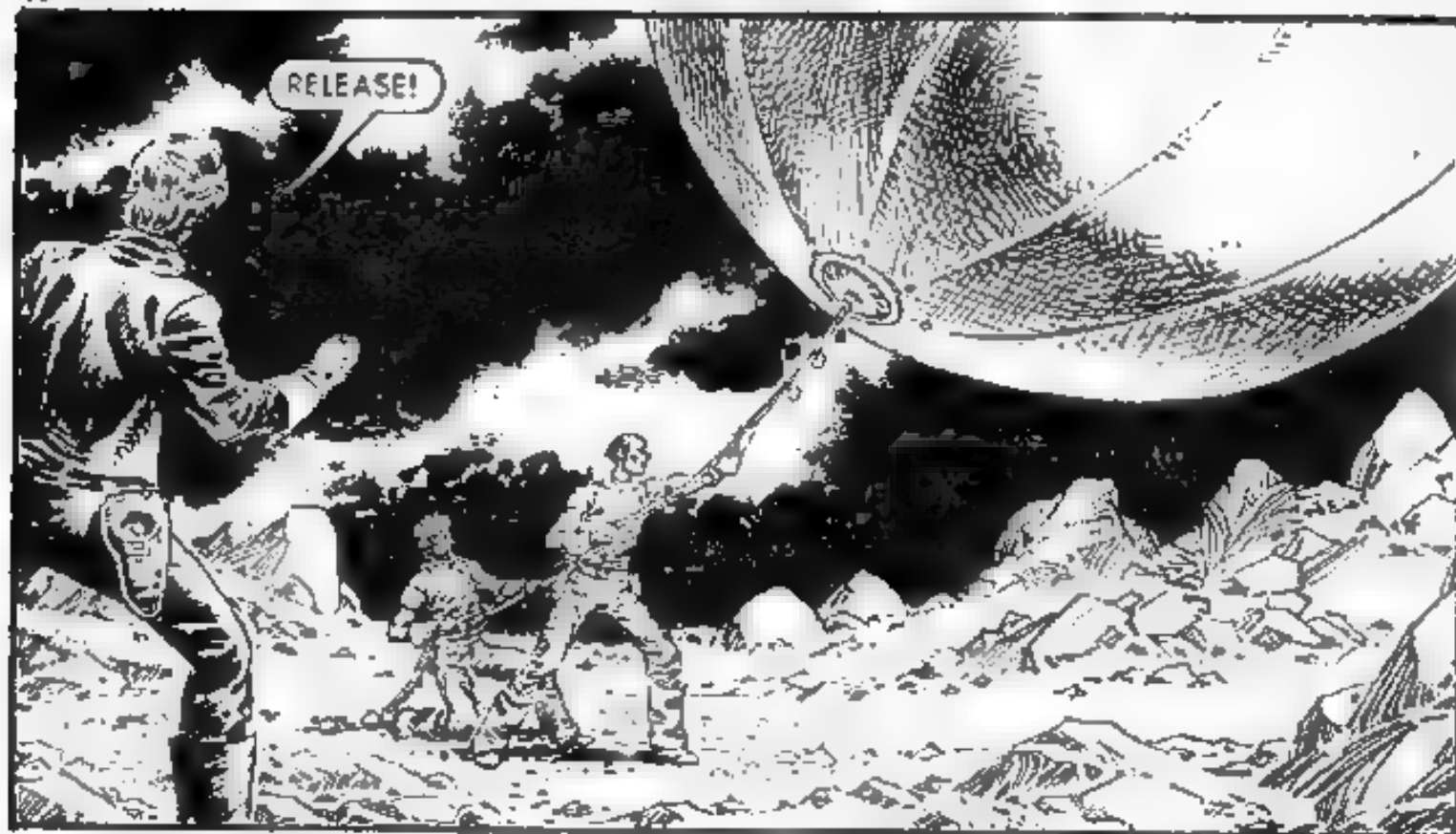
THIS PIPELINE WAS CONSTRUCTED SO THAT BIGGER BALLOON CONVOYS COULD BE HAULED BY LARGER SHIPS FROM THE SPACEPORT.

COULD WE FILL A BALLOON AND EXPLODE IT ON THE SPACEPORT?

YES! IF WE GET THE BALLOON'S NECK OVER THE PIPE AS SOON AS THE CAP FALLS OFF.

THE TASK PROVED SIMPLE —

IF I'VE GOT THE WEIGHT ON THIS LINE CORRECT, THE BALLOON WILL ONLY RISE A FEW FEET, STEVE



INSIDE THE SPACEPORT —







THE GAS IGNITED CAUSING A MINOR FIRE AMONGST OUTBUILDINGS . .



WE MUST GET TO  
THOSE TWO SHIPS.

UNDER COVER OF THE FIRE AND SMOKE...

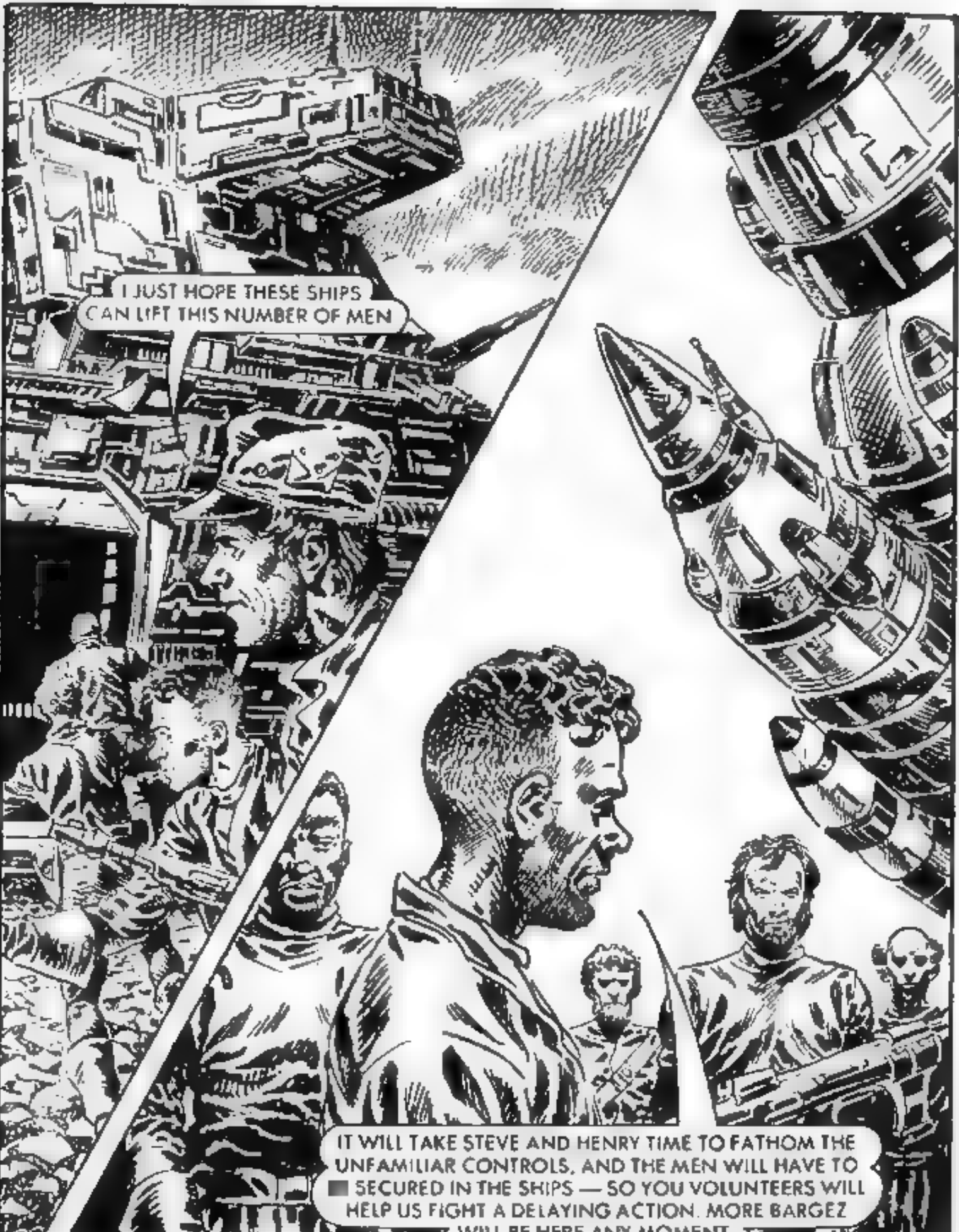






USING THE MOBILE WATER TRUK AS A SHIELD, HENRY REVERSED TOWARD THE BARGEZ VANTAGE POINT—





I JUST HOPE THESE SHIPS  
CAN LIFT THIS NUMBER OF MEN

IT WILL TAKE STEVE AND HENRY TIME TO FATHOM THE  
UNFAMILIAR CONTROLS, AND THE MEN WILL HAVE TO  
■ SECURED IN THE SHIPS — SO YOU VOLUNTEERS WILL  
HELP US FIGHT A DELAYING ACTION. MORE BARGEZ  
WILL BE HERE ANY MOMENT.

ANY TRANSPORT THAT COMES UP  
THIS ROAD, YOU IGNITE THE GAS  
AND DO YOUR BEST WITH IT —  
CLEAR?



FIX YOUR RADIO IGNITERS AND THEN JOIN  
US IN THE BUILDING AT THE FAR END.



IF ALL ELSE FAILS, WE'LL SELL OUR LIVES  
DEARLY!



WHILE THE CRAFT WERE BEING PREPARED, GEE'S  
GROUND FORCE FOUGHT A HIT AND RUN BATTLE--



AN EARSPLITTING ROAR CAUSED GEE TO LOOK UP--

WE'VE DONE OUR JOB  
THEY'RE OFF!



THE OVERLOADED CRAFT SENT A  
HAIL OF FIRE DOWN ON THE  
BARGEZ

WE'VE PUT PAID TO THE ARMS  
DEPOT. ARE YOU CLEARING THE ROAD?

ON HENRY'S CRAFT—

WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE ANOTHER PASS  
TO FINISH OFF THIS LAST CONVOY.

THERE'S NOTHING BUT SCRAP METAL  
FOR 50 MILES AROUND THE SPACEPORT.

SHIP'S DETECTORS SHOW BARGEZ  
ACTIVITY AT THE GAS PUMPING  
PLANET. TELL HENRY WE ARE  
GOING THERE.

THE GROUND FORCES WERE OBLITERATED, AND THERE  
WAS NO NEED TO DESTROY THE LAST DOME.



TELL THE GROUND CONTROL  
THE WORK IS DONE. WE ARE  
BRINGING THE MEN BACK.  
THE SHIPS ARE OVERLOADED  
ANYWAY.

ONCE THE CRAFT LANDED, A COMMAND CENTRE WAS SET UP

THE INVASION IS ONLY 24  
HOURS OLD, YET THE  
BARGE2 OCCUPATION  
FORCE IS ALREADY  
SCUPPERED

I'VE TOLD VELGA THAT RESISTANCE  
IS ALIVE AND WELL ON ASGARD

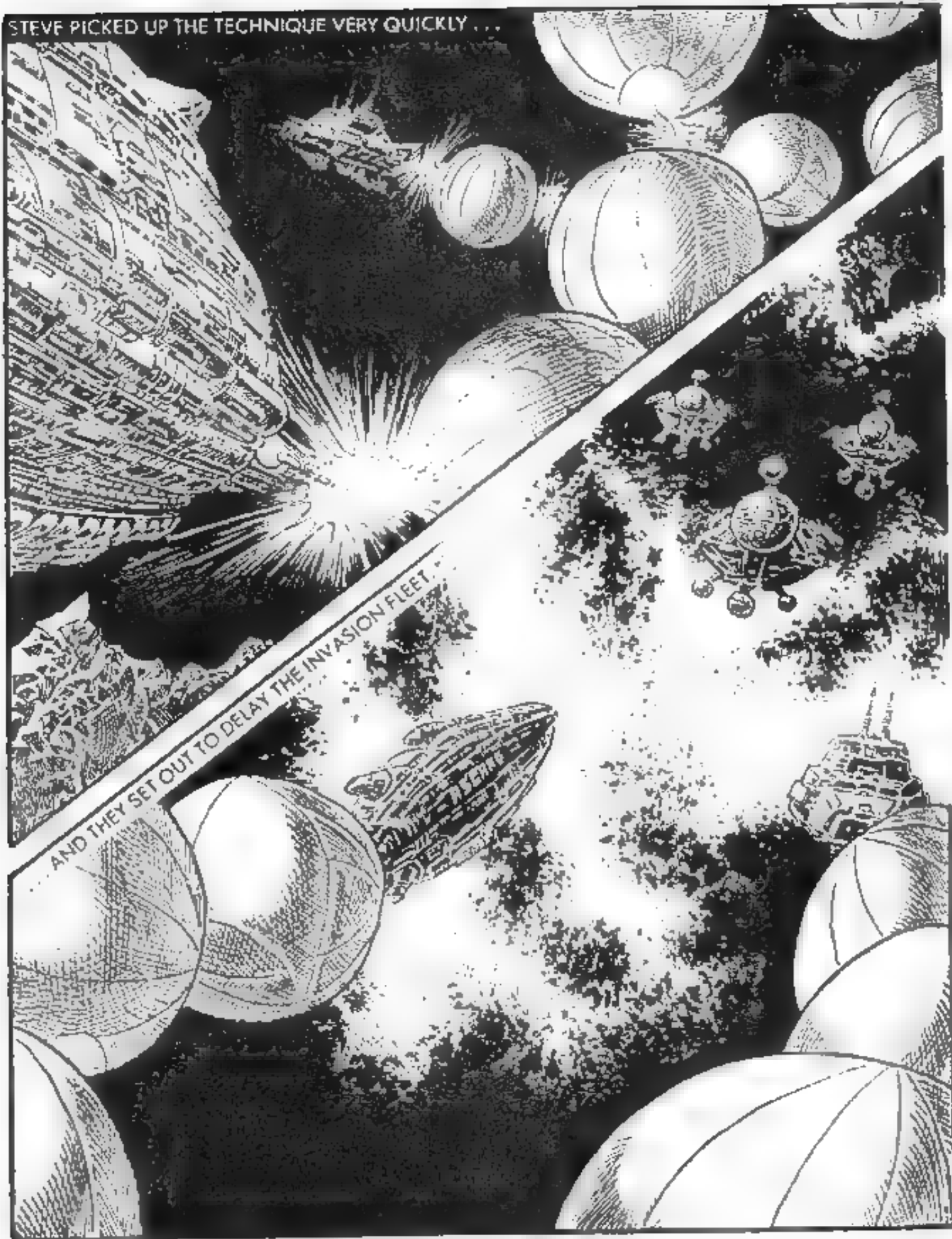
THE EARTH FLEET WILL SOON  
BE ON ITS WAY







STEVE PICKED UP THE TECHNIQUE VERY QUICKLY . . .

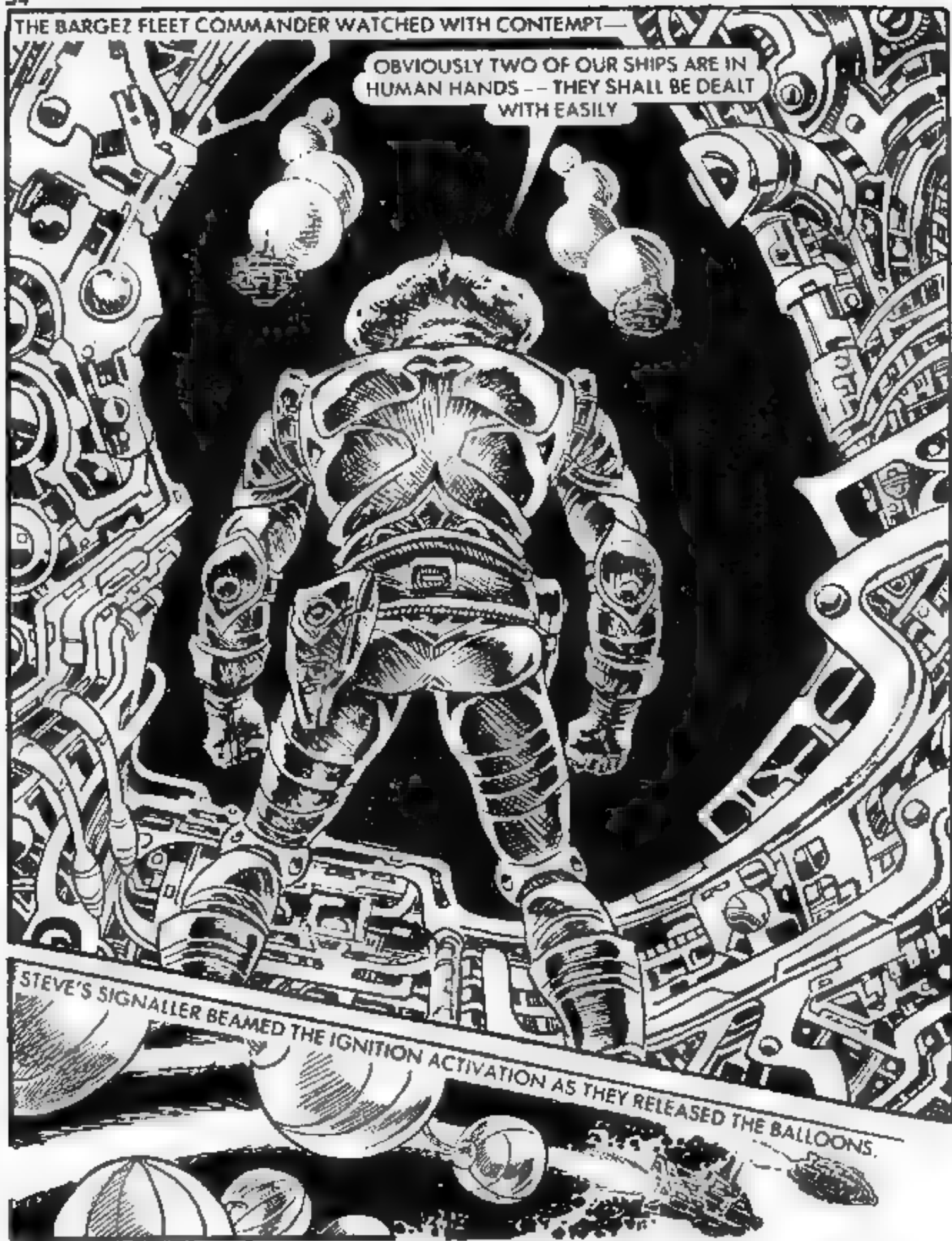


...AND THEY SET OUT TO DELAY THE INVASION FLEET...

THE BARGEZ FLEET COMMANDER WATCHED WITH CONTEMPT—

OBVIOUSLY TWO OF OUR SHIPS ARE IN  
HUMAN HANDS -- THEY SHALL BE DEALT  
WITH EASILY

STEVE'S SIGNALLER BEAMED THE IGNITION ACTIVATION AS THEY RELEASED THE BALLOONS.



THE ALLOY BALLOONS EXPLODED DAMAGING A NUMBER OF BARGEZ CRAFT —



HENRY! THESE  
SHIPS ARE SLUGGISH.

YEAH, STEVE, MINE TOO. AND YOU  
NOTICED THE BARGEZ COULDN'T TURN  
SHARPLY AWAY FROM THE BALLOONS?

STEVE SEARCHED THE TECHNICAL FILES, AND FOUND WHAT HE WANTED—

ROUGHLY TRANSLATED, THAT MEANS  
"DANGEROUS TO ALTER TURN  
SETTING." BUT WHY?



STEVE TRANSMITTED THE  
INFORMATION—

...ANY IDEAS WHY?

MORE ALIENS STEVE — AND NO  
TIME FOR BALLOONS NOW.





STEVE, IF IT ISN'T MECHANICAL, IT MUST  
BE TO PREVENT DANGER TO THE BARGEZ.  
MAYBE THEY CAN'T TAKE THE G-FORCE  
IN TIGHT TURNS WE CAN.



STEVE AND HENRY  
TRANSMITTED THE OVER-RIDE CODE--

THE CAPTURED CRAFT, NOW ABLE TO TURN MUCH  
MORE TIGHTLY, SPED INTO THE ATTACK.



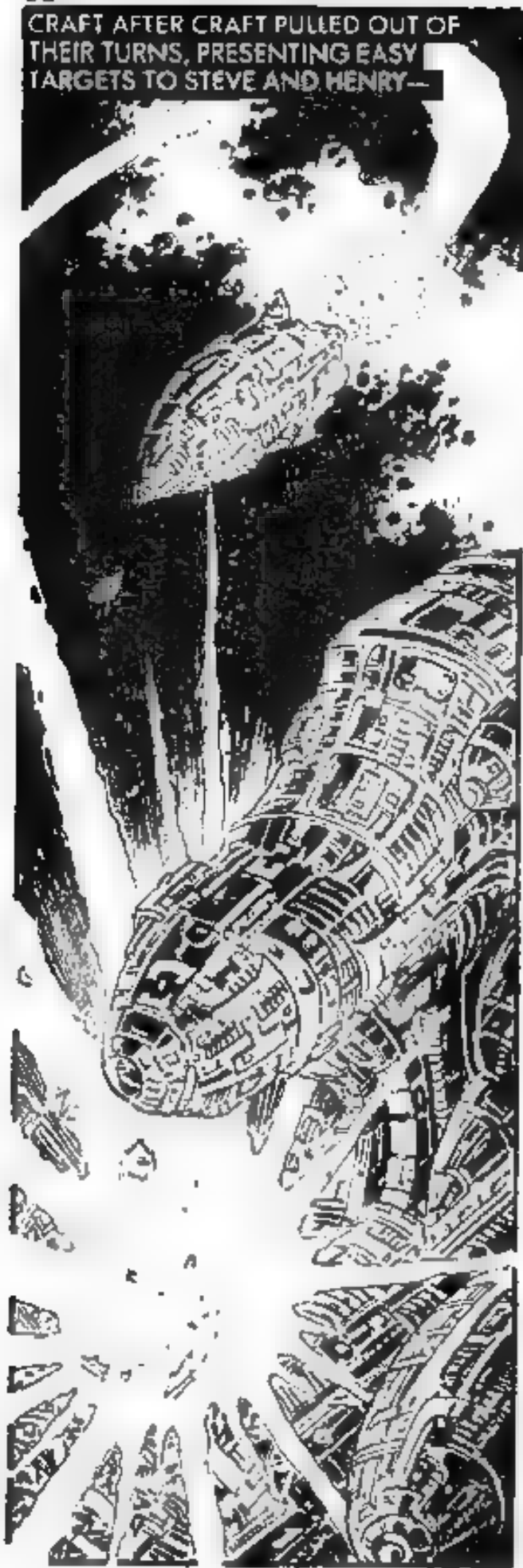
THE BARGEZ TRIED TO FOLLOW THE TURNING CRAFT--

THEY'RE SITTING DUCKS! YOU WERE  
RIGHT HENRY--THEY CAN'T TAKE TIGHT  
TURNS!

TOO STEEP!  
TOO STEEP...



CRAFT AFTER CRAFT PULLED OUT OF  
THEIR TURNS, PRESENTING EASY  
TARGETS TO STEVE AND HENRY—



DISHEARTENED, THE BARGEZ WITHDREW—



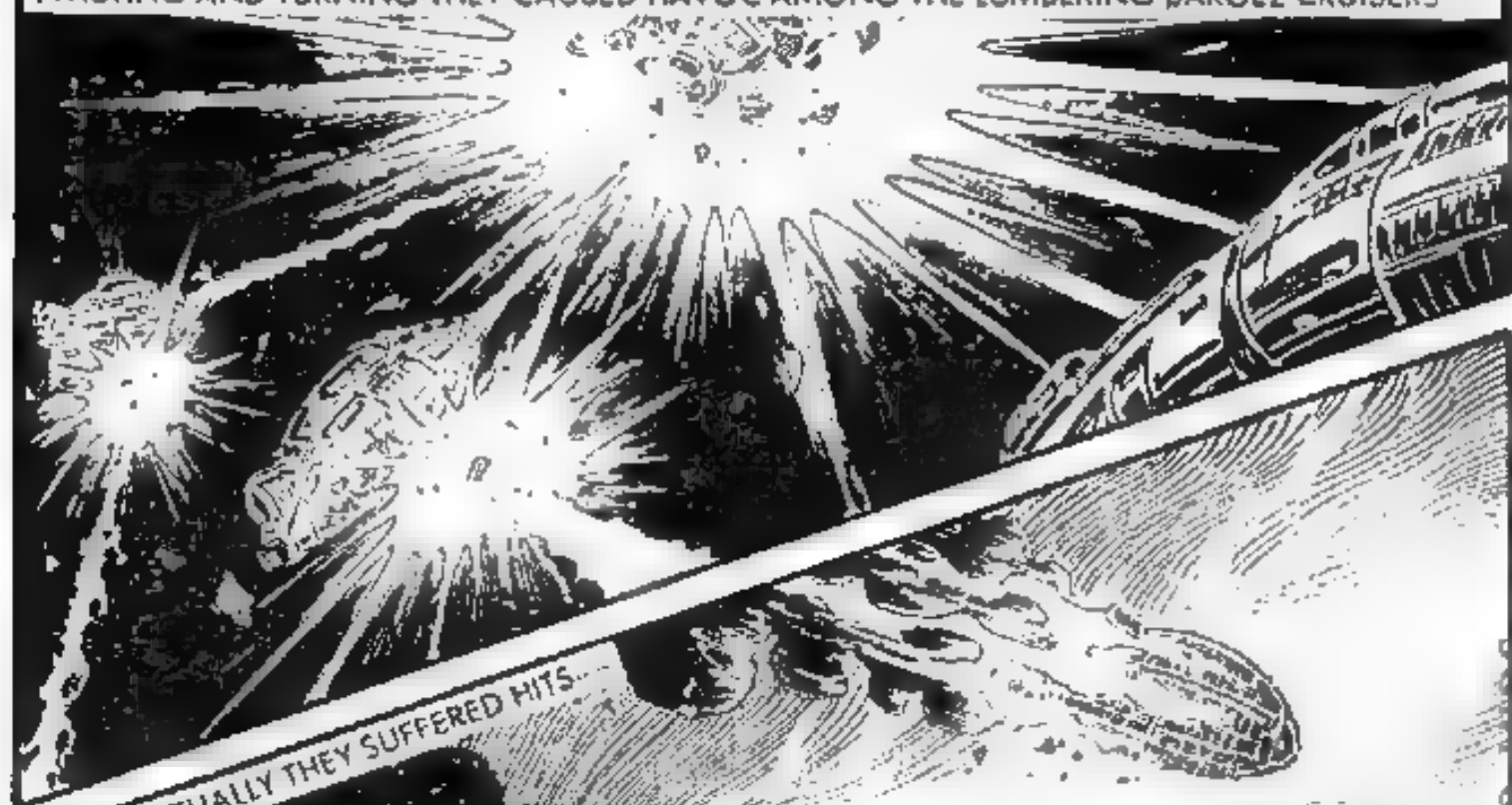
WE'VE REPELLED TWO ADVANCE SQUADRONS, BUT IT'S OBVIOUS THEIR FLEET WILL ARRIVE BEFORE OURS.

WE ARE MAKING MORE OBSTACLES ON THE SPACEPORT, STEVE. NO SENSE IN LETTING THEM LAND EASILY.

STEVE AND HENRY PREPARED FOR A FORLORN STAND AGAINST THE BARGEZ FLEET



TWISTING AND TURNING THEY CAUSED HAVOC AMONG THE LUMBERING BARGEZ CRUISERS



BUT EVENTUALLY THEY SUFFERED HITS...



BOTH CRAFT CRASH LANDED ON THE SPACEPORT --





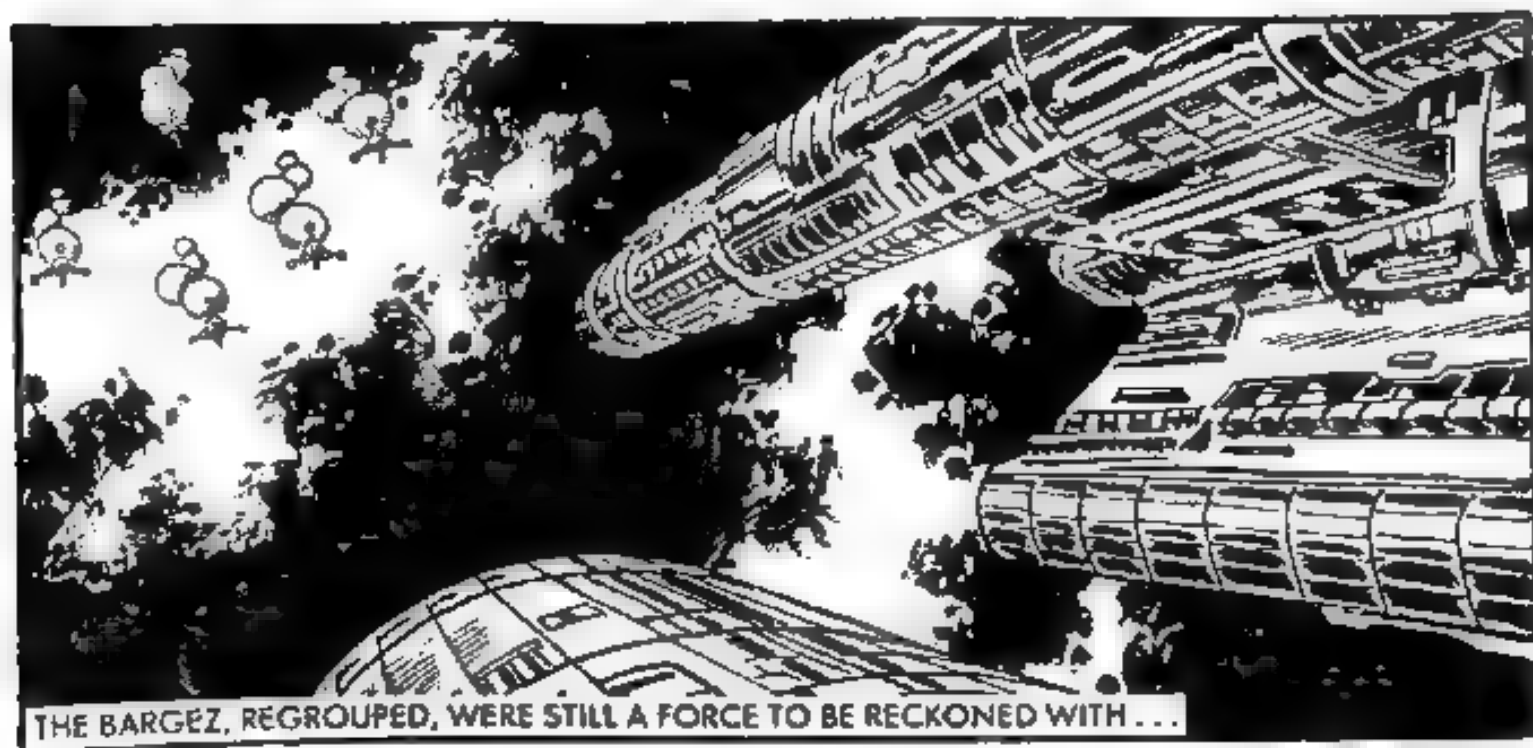


I RECKON THAT'S  
ALL WE CAN DO.

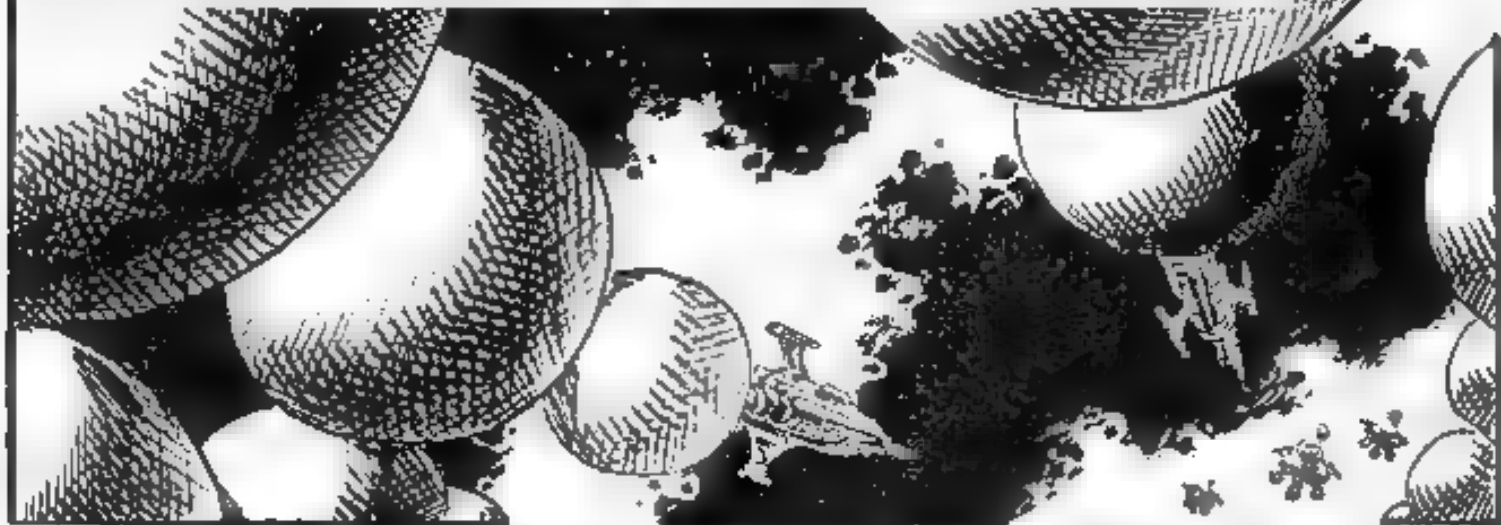
BUT THE VELGA FLEET WAS WITHIN SIGHTING DISTANCE.

WE'VE CAUGHT THEM IN ATMOSPHERE! THEY  
DAREN'T EXCEED WARP 2 IN A TURN! ALL SHIPS  
FIRE SEEKER MISSILES!





... BUT THE EARTH FLEET HAD TOWED MANY BALLOONS INTO THE BATTLE ZONE ...



... AND ONCE RELEASED A DETONATOR WAS ACTIVATED.

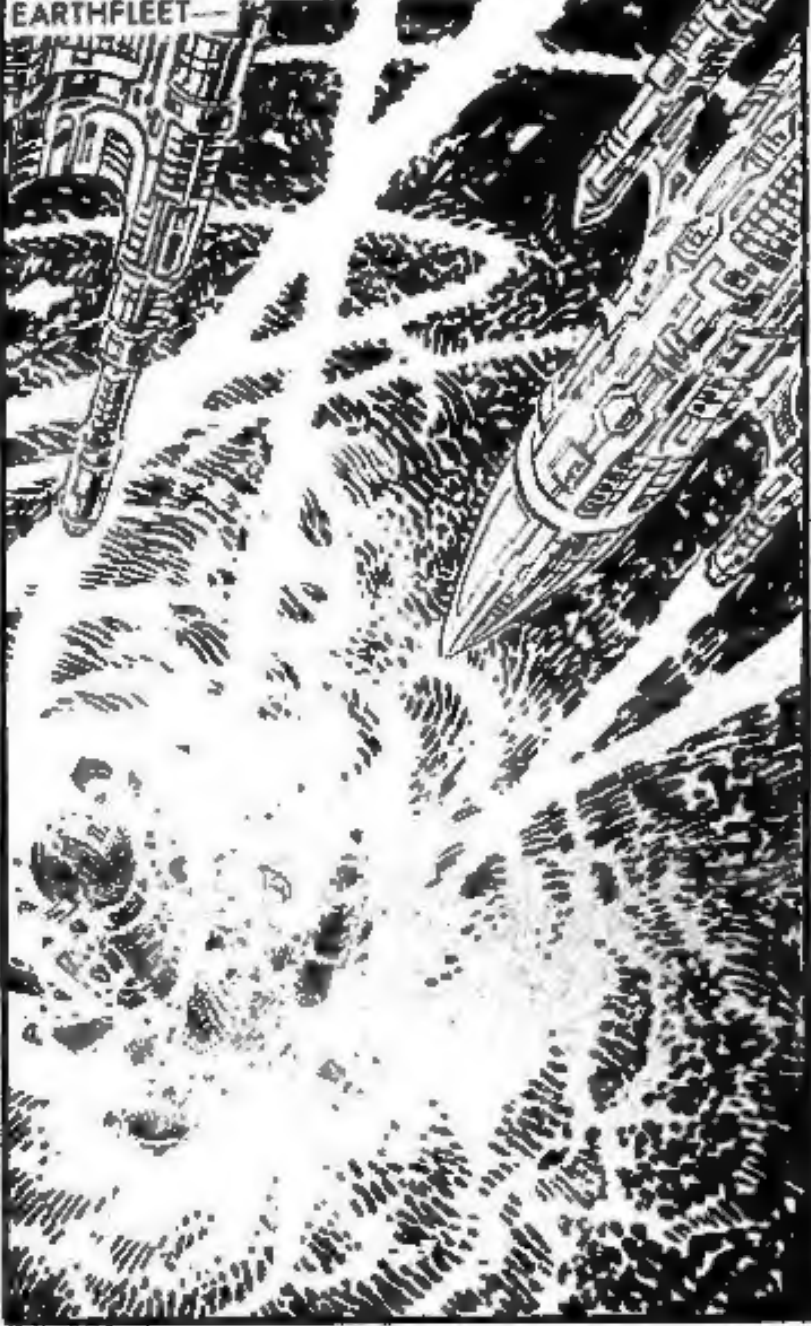




LIKE FIRESHIPs OF OLD, THE OBJECT WAS NOT SO MUCH TO DESTROY, BUT TO PANIC AND SCATTER THE FOE.



THE SCATTERED ALIENS WERE HUNTED DOWN AND BLASTED BY THE STILL ORGANISED EARTH FLEET—



AS THE BATTLE DREW TO A CLOSE—THE SUICIDE SQUAD ASSESSED CASUALTIES.

NOT SO MANY OF US LEFT NOW!



TRUE! A LOT OF GOOD MEN DIED TO SAVE ASGARD FOR THE FEDERATION.

THE THREE WERE SUMMONED TO THE COMMAND SHIP ONCE THE BATTLE WAS OVER.

YOU THREE WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN THIS VICTORY, SO YOU ARE BEING POSTED TO CALIBAN VI... A WAR HAS BEEN RAGING THERE. KEEP THE CASUALTIES DOWN.

CASUALTIES! OVER A THOUSAND MEN DIED TO SAVE ASGARD, AND OUR FRIEND BELLO WAS KILLED LAST TRIP. HOW MANY MORE "CASUALTIES" MUST WE SUFFER BEFORE GOVERNMENTS REALISE THAT WAR IS FUTILE?

**DON'T  
MISS**

**THIS MONTH'S  
ACTION-PACKED  
ADVENTURE**

# STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 123

HE DISOBEYED AN ORDER  
AND SO SAVED THE TERRAN  
WORLDS FROM

## THE PLANET EATER

**NOW  
ON  
SALE**







After the launch of Gemini 12 in November 1966, the American Apollo moon-landing plan really began. Apollo had been tested, unmanned, since 1964 and all had progressed well. Tragically, in January 1967 three astronauts, Grissom, White and Chaffee were killed during a ground test for Apollo's first manned flight. Another 18 months passed before Apollo 7 blasted off.

Apollo 7 command module pilot was Major Donn Fulton Eisele, 38, USAF and pilot Walter Cunningham, 36. The mission lasted 10 days 20 hours 9 mins 3 secs and began on October 11, 1968.

Both Eisele and Cunningham are both now in business.